

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

- 1 1. (Original) A heel pad for reducing the likelihood of decubitus ulcers on a patient's  
2 heels when the patient is lying on a mattress, the heel pad comprising:  
3 a cushion adapted to rest on the mattress beneath the calves of the patient;  
4 wherein said cushion has a front, a rear, a top, a bottom and a pair of ends, said  
5 cushion including a core layer having an arched profile, wherein said core tapers  
6 downward toward said front and said rear; and  
7 a top layer covering said core layer, said top layer being softer than said core  
8 layer, and thicker toward the front and rear edges, wherein said top layer of said  
9 cushion tapers downwardly toward said rear.
- 1 2. (Original) The heel pad of claim 1, wherein said layers are each constructed of a foam.
- 1 3. (Original) The heel pad of claim 2, wherein said layers are constructed of a  
2 polyurethane foam.
- 1 4. (Original) The heel pad of claim 1 further comprising a cover constructed of fluid  
2 resistant material in which said cushion is received.
- 1 5. (Original) The heel pad of claim 4, wherein said cover includes a pocket having at  
2 least one open end formed beneath said cushion and separated therefrom by a layer  
3 of cover material; and  
4 a riser insertable within said pocket to raise a portion of said cushion.

- 1    6.    (Currently amended) The heel pad of claim 5, wherein said [[pad]] riser is triangular  
2            in shape and has an inclined surface that extends from the front of said cushion  
3            upwardly to the rear of said cushion.
  
- 1    7.    (Currently amended) The heel pad of claim 6, wherein said pocket has a triangular  
2            section that conforms to the triangular section of said [[pad]] riser.
  
- 1    8.    (Original) The heel pad of claim 4, wherein said cover has a flap attached at either  
2            end, said flaps extending downwardly from a base of said cover; and  
3                    a strap extending between said flaps adapted to secure said cushion beneath the  
4            calves of the patient.
  
- 1    9.    (Original) The heel pad of claim 8 further comprising a quick connector attached to  
2            said flap and extending downwardly for attachment of said strap to said flaps.
  
- 1    10.   (Original) The heel pad of claim 8, wherein said flaps extend a selected length for  
2            covering the sides of the mattress.
  
- 1    11.   (Original) The heel pad of claim 1, wherein said top layer has a density of about 1.5  
2            lbs. per cubic foot.
  
- 1    12.   (Original) The heel pad of claim 1, wherein said core layer has a density of about 3.5  
2            lbs. per cubic foot.
  
- 1    13.   (Original) The heel pad of claim 1, wherein said cushion has a thickness of about 1  
2            inch to about 4 inches.
  
- 1    14.   (Original) The heel pad of claim 13, wherein said thickness of said cushion is about

2           2 inches to about 2.5 inches.

1   15. (Original) The heel pad of claim 14, wherein said cushion has a thickness of about  
2       2.25 inches.

1   16. (Original) The heel pad of claim 13, wherein said top layer has a thickness of about  
2       one half of the thickness of the cushion.

1   17. (Original) The heel pad of claim 15, wherein said top layer has a thickness of about  
2       one inch.

1   18. (Original) The heel pad of claim 1, wherein said core layer has an apex located  
2       centrally relative to the front and rear of said cushion.

1   19. (Original) The heel pad of claim 1, wherein said core layer has a radius of about 4 to  
2       about 8 inches.

1   20. (Original) The heel pad of claim 1, wherein said top layer has front and rear edges that  
2       round downwardly to conform respectively to the knee and heel of the patient.

1   21. (Currently amended) The heel pad of claim 20, wherein said front and rear edges of  
2       said top layer round downwardly in a symmetrical fashion and have a radius of about  
3       one [[mch]] inch.

1   22. (Cancelled )

1   23. (Cancelled)

1   24. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 22 further comprising~~ A method of

- 2        reducing the likelihood of decubitus heel ulcers comprising:  
3                providing a cushion having a front, a rear, a top and a bottom, where said  
4        cushion includes a core layer and an outer layer, where the outer layer is softer than  
5        the core layer and thicker toward the front and rear of the cushion;  
6                inserting the cushion beneath the calves of the patient and cantilevering the  
7        heels of the patient over the end of the pad covering the pad with a fluid resistant  
8        cover having downwardly extending flaps and tucking said flaps in around a mattress  
9        to maintain the position of the [[pad]] cushion relative to the calves of the patient.
- 1    25. (Original) The method of claim 24 further comprising the step of tying said flaps to  
2        each other below the mattress.
- 1    26. (Original) A heel pad used to offload pressure on the heels of a patient, when the  
2        patient is lying on a mattress, the heel pad comprising:  
3                a cushion having a core layer and a top layer, said top layer being softer than  
4        said core layer;  
5                wherein said core layer has a front edge, a rear edge, and a top surface spanning  
6        said edges, said top surface of said core layer defining a semi-circular arch;  
7                wherein said arch has a centrally located apex adapted to reside beneath the  
8        patient's calves;  
9                wherein said top layer covers said core and has a thickness that is substantially  
10       inversely related to a thickness of said core layer, wherein front and rear edges of said  
11       top layer curve downwardly from the top surface of said top layer to define a  
12       clearance between the cushion and the heels and knees of the patient;  
13               an at least fluid resistant cover surrounding said cushion and including a base  
14       residing beneath said cushion;  
15               a pair of flaps extending downwardly from said base, wherein said flaps are  
16       adapted to fit around an edge of the mattress.

- 1 27. (Original) The heel pad of claim 26 further comprising a securement assembly  
2 attached to said cover for holding the cushion on the mattress.
- 1 28. (Original) The heel pad of claim 26, wherein said cover includes a flap extending  
2 beneath said base to define a pocket; and  
3 a removable riser receivable in said pocket.
- 1 29. (Original) The heel pad of claim 28, wherein said flaps extend downwardly from said  
2 flap beneath said pocket.
- 1 30. (New) A heel pad for reducing the likelihood of decubitus ulcers on a patient's heels  
2 when the patient is lying on a mattress, the heel pad comprising:  
3 a cushion adapted to rest on the mattress beneath the calves of the patient;  
4 wherein said cushion has a front, a rear, a top, a bottom and a pair of ends, said  
5 cushion including a core layer having an arched profile, wherein said core tapers  
6 downward toward said front and said rear; and  
7 a top layer covering said core layer, said top layer being softer than said core  
8 layer and thicker toward the front and rear edges.
- 1 31. (New) The heel pad of claim 30 further comprising a riser located below said cushion  
2 and adapted to raise at least a portion of said cushion relative to the mattress.
- 1 32. (New) The heel pad of claim 31, wherein said cushion rounds downwardly an extent  
2 effective to avoid pressure against the patient that would reduce blood flow to the  
3 patient's calf and heel.
- 1 33. (New) The heel pad of claim 32, wherein said cushion rounds downwardly at the front  
2 edge to define a clearance between the top surface of the cushion and the underside  
3 of the patient's knee.

- 1     34. (New) The heel pad of claim 32, wherein said cushion rounds downwardly at a radius  
2             of at least about 1 inch.
- 1     35. (New) The heel pad of claim 32, wherein said cushion rounds downwardly at a radius  
2             conforming to the radius defined by the patient's calf and at least one of the patient's  
3             knee and heel.